

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/005007

International filing date (day/month/year)
26.11.2004

Priority date (day/month/year)
26.11.2003

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
G07D11/00

Applicant
MONEY CONTROLS LIMITED

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

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**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
 INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

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Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - ☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 - ☐ a sequence listing
 - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 - ☐ in written format
 - ☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 - ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
 - ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-61,65
	No: Claims	62-64,66
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	5-21,24-32,37-52,55-61,65
	No: Claims	1-4,22,23,33-36,53,54
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-66
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

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International application No.

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Re Item V

**Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Reference is made to the following documents :

- D1: WO 01/91065 A (THOMAS FINDLAY LIMITED) 29 November 2001
- D2: EP-A-1 031 949 (NCR INTERNATIONAL INC) 30 August 2000
- D3: US-B1-6 402 025 (SHEPHERD ALAN G ET AL) 11 June 2002
- D4: EP-A-1 189 106 (EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY) 20 March 2002
- D5: EP-A-1 258 842 (NCR INTERNATIONAL INC) 20 November 2002

2. Lack of novelty (Article 33(2) PCT).

The document D4 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document) :
-a container (cartridge 12) provided with a stack of sheet media ;
-a read/write RFID device (RFID transponder 50) associated with the container sealed
inside the container.

[column 5, lines 43-52 ; column 6, lines 14-18 ; figure 4]

Therefore, the subject-matter of claims 62-64, 66 is not new (Article 33(2) PCT).

3. Lack of inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT).

3.1. Independent claims 1, 22.

The document D1 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document) a
packaging device (banknote handling system 10) for packaging a stack of sheet objects
that have an attributable monetary value in a container (removable secure cassette 23)
comprising :

- means (verifying unit 12) for determining value data relating to a sheet object to be
stacked in the container ;
- and wherein the cassette 23 is equipped with a non-volatile memory device 130 which

receives from the verifying unit 12 the number and value of the notes stacked in the cassette, and maintains a running total.

The subject-matter of claim 1 therefore differs from this known device in that an RF reader/writer is used for writing data to an RFID device associated with the container.

The problem to be solved by the present invention may therefore be regarded as a providing the device known from document D1 with an alternative way of writing data to a device associated with the container.

Document D3 discloses a dispensing container for valuable media in sheet form and suggest the use of an electronic tag to store relevant data (see column 2, lines 21-26 ; column 4, lines 19-29). The skilled person would therefore include this feature in the device described in document D1 in order to solve the problem posed without any inventive skill.

The same reasoning applies, *mutatis mutandis*, to the subject-matter of the corresponding independent method claim 22.

Therefore, the subject-matter of claims 1 and 22 does not involve an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT).

3.2. Independent claims 33, 53.

The document D2 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document) a packaging device (self service terminal SST 10) for packaging a stack of sheet objects that have an attributable monetary value in a container comprising :

- means for determining value data relating to a sheet object to be stacked in the container ;

[column 7, lines 22-31 & 47-55]

- a deposit identification sensor 90 arranged to cooperate with a magnetic identification tag on an appropriate deposit package.

[column 5, lines 37-42]

The subject-matter of claim 33 therefore differs from this known device in that an RF reader/writer is used for reading identification information from an RFID device associated with the container.

The problem to be solved by the present invention may therefore be regarded as a providing the device known from document D2 with an alternative way of reading data from a device associated with the container.

Document D3 discloses a dispensing container for valuable media in sheet form and suggest the use of an electronic tag to store relevant data (see column 2, lines 21-26 ; column 4, lines 19-29). The skilled person would therefore include this feature in the device described in document D2 in order to solve the problem posed without any inventive skill.

Document D2 also discloses the step of storing in a database (deposit transaction log) the read identification information in association with a value data relating to a stack of sheet objects (see column 8, line 56 - column 9, line 5). Then, the previous reasoning raised about claim 33 applies also to the subject-matter of the independent method claim 53.

Therefore, the subject-matter of claims 33 and 53 does not involve an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT).

4. Potentially allowable subject-matter.

The combination of features among those of dependent claims 5-21, 24-32, 37-52, and 55-61 does not seem to be known from, or rendered obvious by, the available prior art.

The most pertinent features appear to be :

- an unpacking device ; *- separate reader*
- the comparison/reconciliation of first/second value data ;
- the tracking operations ;
- a sealing device.

Should the applicant intend to use some of these features, a special attention is to be paid

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in order to keep unity of invention (Rule 68 PCT).